

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House on Friday next.

Authorizing the erection of a bridge over the river Potomac, within the district of Columbia.

10 stituted a board of commissioners, with full power and authority
11 to open, or cause to be opened, books for receiving and entering
12 subscriptions for raising a capital stock, not exceeding two hun-
13 dred thousand dollars, in shares of one hundred dollars each, for
14 the purpose of erecting a bridge over the river Potomac, between
15 the city of Washington and Alexander's island, and of making

16 such other incidental works, and defraying such other incidental
17 expenses, as shall be required by this act, or deemed necessary or
18 expedient by the company hereinafter named; the time, place and
19 manner of receiving and entering such subscriptions, to be ascer-
20 tained by the said board of commissioners, and duly advertised in
21 such gazettes as they may deem expedient; *Provided*, That no
22 subscription shall be received, unless the sum of
23 dollars be first paid into the hands of the person authorized to
24 receive the same, on each share subscribed for.

1 *Sec. 2. And be it further enacted*, That whenever five hundred of
2 the said shares shall be subscribed for, all persons who may then
3 be, or thereafter may become, the actual holders or proprietors of
4 shares in the said capital stock, either as subscribers for the same,
5 or as the legal representatives, successors or assignees of such
6 subscribers, shall be, and they are hereby made and created a
7 body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "The Wash-
8 ington Bridge Company," and by that name may sue and be sued,
9 implead and be impleaded, and do and suffer all acts, matters and
10 things, which a body politic and corporate may lawfully do and
11 suffer; and may have a common seal, and the same may break
12 and alter at pleasure; and may make all bye-laws, rules, regula-
13 tions and ordinances for the good government and well being of the
14 said company, and for carrying into effect the objects of their insti-
15 tution, so that such bye-laws, rules, regulations or ordinances be
16 not repugnant to the laws of the United States in force within the
17 district of Columbia.

1 *Sec. 3. And be it further enacted,* That when five hundred of the
2 said shares shall be subscribed for as aforesaid, or as soon after as
3 may be, the said board of commissioners shall call a meeting of the
4 company, at the city of Washington, by public advertisement in
5 one or more gazettes published in Washington, Alexandria and
6 Georgetown, appointing a fit and convenient time and place of
7 meeting, for the purpose of electing directors, a clerk
8 and a treasurer, and such other officers, agents and servants as the
9 said company may think fit to appoint, and for transacting, doing,
10 performing and enacting any other business, act, matter or thing,
11 in pursuance of this act, and appertaining to the nature and objects
12 of the institution of the said company; and the said board of com-
13 missioners shall, if neccessary, adjourn the said meeting, from
14 time to time, until a quorum shall be formed; and a majority of
15 the said company, or the proprietors of two thirds of the number
16 of shares actually subscribed for, their legal representatives, suc-
17 cessors or proxies, shall be a quorum to do business: and the said
18 board of commissioners, before opening the said subscription
19 books, shall ascertain and publish, in their said advertisement, a fit
20 and convenient mode of authenticating all powers of attorney
21 authorizing subscriptions to be made in the name of any person or
22 persons; and before calling a meeting of the said company, shall
23 ascertain and publish, in their advertisement, a fit and convenient
24 mode of authenticating all instruments of writing authorizing any
25 person or persons to act and vote, at such meeting, as the proxy or
26 proxies of any member of the said company; all which powers of

27 attorney and instruments of writing shall be filed with the clerk of
 28 the said company, and by him be safely kept among the records
 29 and documents appertaining to his office: and as soon as a quorum
 30 of the said company shall be formed as aforesaid, all the powers,
 31 authority and duties whatsoever, by this act vested in the said board
 32 of commissioners, shall cease and determine, and thenceforward be-
 33 come vested in the directors, for the time being, of the said company,
 34 under such limitations and restrictions as the said company may
 35 think fit to prescribe. And the said board of commissioners shall
 36 account to the said company, at the first meeting of the same, for all
 37 monies received by them or their agents, on account of such sub-
 38 scriptions, and shall immediately pay over the same to the treasurer
 39 of the said company, or to such other person or persons as the said
 40 company may direct and appoint: the said company, nevertheless, to
 41 allow all just credits for monies actually and necessarily expended
 42 by the said board of commissioners, in the execution of their said
 43 trusts and duties.

1 *Sec. 4. And be it further enacted,* That the said directors, clerk
 2 and treasurer, to be elected as aforesaid, may continue in office
 3 until the first Monday in January next, unless they shall be sooner
 4 displaced by any legal meeting of the said company. And there
 5 shall be annually holden, on the first Monday in January, a meet-
 6 ing of the said company, for the purpose of electing
 7 directors, a clerk and a treasurer; and the said company shall have
 8 power, at any meeting, legally called and constituted, in pursuance
 9 of this act, to displace any of their directors or officers, and to sup-

10 ply, by a new election or appointment, all vacancies that may happen
 11 among the directors or officers of the company: and the said com-
 12 pany shall have power to prescribe and regulate the powers and
 13 duties of the said directors, and of all other officers of the com-
 14 pany: and the said directors may, from time to time, elect one of
 15 their body as a president, and may provisionally supply, by their
 16 own election, any vacancies that may happen among the number of
 17 directors, or among any of the officers of the company, and the
 18 persons so elected by the said directors may continue in office till
 19 the next legal meeting of the company.

1 Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That a meeting of the said
 2 company may, at any time, be called by the directors of the com-
 3 pany, for the time being, or by one third of the members of the said
 4 company, or by the proprietors of one third of the shares actually
 5 subscribed for, or the legal representatives or successors of such
 6 members or proprietors: *Provided however*, That no meeting of
 7 the said company shall be legal or valid, unless a quorum shall be
 8 formed, consisting of the majority of the members of the said com-
 9 pany, or of the proprietors of at least two thirds of the number
 10 of shares actually subscribed for, their legal representatives, suc-
 11 cessors, or proxies; nor unless the place (being within the city of
 12 Washington,) and the time of such meeting be previously adver-
 13 tised, for three weeks successively, in one or more gazettes, in the
 14 city of Washington, Alexandria, and Georgetown.

1 Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the said shares shall be
 2 negotiable and transferable from one to another, by assignments in

3 writing, executed before two witnesses at the least, and authenti-
4 cated and registered, as the said company may prescribe and direct
5 in their byelaws and regulations.

1 Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That in suits at law against
2 the said company, the first process shall be a summons, to be served
3 on the president, or any one or more of the directors of the said
4 company; upon the service and return of which summons, if no
5 appearance shall be entered for the said company, at the return
6 term, the court may order the general issue to be entered on the
7 record, and may proceed to trial and judgment, in like manner as
8 if an appearance had been entered, and the issue made up by the
9 said company; and if judgment shall be recovered against the said
10 company, the court shall order the usual process of execution, or a
11 special writ to attach the money, goods, chattels, debts, choses in
12 action, and tolls in the hands of any officer of the said company,
13 or of any other person; and such attachment shall operate on the
14 tolls thereafter to be received, which may be collected by a person,
15 specially appointed by the court, for the use of the plaintiff recover-
16 ing such judgment, until such judgment shall be satisfied; and the
17 court may make such further or other order for enforcing the pay-
18 ment of such judgment, as may be consistent with the practice and
19 powers of such court, as a court of law or equity.

1 Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That the amount of each share
2 shall be paid by instalments of ten dollars, at such times as the
3 said company shall direct; and in case any instalment or instal-
4 ments shall not be paid at the time appointed by the said company,

5 or within ten days thereafter, the same may be recovered, in the
 6 name of the said company, by warrant from a justice of the peace,
 7 if the amount due shall not exceed twenty dollars; and if the sum
 8 so due, shall exceed twenty dollars, the same may be recovered by
 9 motion, in the name of the said company, on ten days notice, in
 10 any court of record in the county or district, where the debtor shall
 11 be found; and in all such warrants and motions, the certificate of
 12 the clerk of the said company, authenticated by the president, under
 13 the common seal of the said company, shall be conclusive evidence
 14 of the defendant's being a member of the company, and prima facie
 15 evidence of the amount due on the shares held by such defendant.

1 Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the said company be, and
 2 they are hereby authorized and empowered to erect and build, or
 3 to cause to be erected and built, over the river Potomac, between
 4 the termination of Maryland avenue and Alexander's island, a good
 5 and sufficient bridge, at least thirty feet wide, of sound and suitable
 6 materials, and in all respects adequate for the passage of travellers,
 7 horses, cattle, and carriages, with a secure railing on each side, at
 8 least four feet high.

1 Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the said company shall
 2 cause to be built, and kept and maintained in good repair, a conve-
 3 nient and sufficient draw or passage-way, at least thirty feet wide,
 4 in the said bridge, over the main channel of the river, for the passing
 5 and repassing of vessels, by day and by night; and shall also cause
 6 to be built, and to be kept and maintained in good repair, a well
 7 constructed and substantial pier or wharf, on each side of the said

8 bridge, and adjoining or near to the said draw, in every respect suf-
9 ficient for ships and other vessels to lie at securely; and all ships
10 and vessels, waiting for a passage through the said draw, may lie
11 at such piers or wharves, free of charge, until a suitable opportu-
12 nity offers of passing through the said draw; and the said company
13 shall, at their own cost and without toll, cause the said draw or pas-
14 sage-way, to be hoisted or removed, without delay, for the passage
15 of all ships and vessels with masts, that are unable to pass under
16 the same; and if through the unskilfulness or negligence of the
17 person or persons employed by the said company, to hoist or remove
18 the said draw, any ship or vessel shall be unjustly and unreasona-
19 bly hindered or delayed, in passing the said draw, the said company
20 shall be liable to the master, or the owner or owners of such ship
21 or vessel, for damages to be recovered in a special action on the
22 case, in any court of competent jurisdiction; and the said company
23 shall constantly keep the said bridge furnished with good
24 lamps, to be well supplied with oil, and lighted in due season, four
25 of which lamps shall be kept at the said draw, and be kept burning
26 through the night, and the others shall be kept burning till the hour
27 of twelve at night.

1 Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted,* That as soon as the said bridge
2 shall be erected and built, and furnished and completed, as required
3 by this act, the said company shall be intitled to demand and re-
4 ceive, by their proper agents, servants, or officers, tolls, at the fol-
5 lowing rates, viz. For each foot passenger, cents ;
6 for each person and horse, cents ; for each chaise,

7 sulkey, or riding chair, cents ; for each coach, coachee,
 8 stage-waggon, chariot, phaeton or curricule, or other riding carriage,
 9 cents ; for each sled or sleigh, cents, and
 10 the further sum of cents, for each horse or other beast,
 11 more than one, by which such sled or sleigh shall be drawn ; for
 12 each four-wheeled waggon, cart, or other four-wheeled carriage of
 13 burthen, cents, and the further sum of
 14 cents, for each horse or other beast, more than two, by which the
 15 same shall be drawn ; for each two-wheeled cart, dray, or other two-
 16 wheeled carriage of burthen, cents, and the further
 17 sum of cents, for each horse or other beast, more than
 18 one, by which the same shall be drawn ; for each sheep or swine
 19 cents ; for horses and neat cattle, other than those
 20 in teams, drawing sleds, sleighs, or carriages, or those with riders,
 21 cents each ; and one person only, to each team or drove,
 22 shall be allowed to pass free of toll : *Provided*, That if the said
 23 bridge be not erected and built, and furnished and completed, as
 24 required by this act, within years, from and after the first
 25 day of October next, then, and in that case, all the powers, autho-
 26 rity, privileges, emoluments and immunities, whatsoever, by this
 27 act granted to the said company, shall cease and determine, and be-
 28 come absolutely forfeited : *And provided also*, That if the nett an-
 29 nual revenue arising from the said tolls, shall, at any time, exceed
 30 the rate of per centum per annum, upon the capital
 31 stock actually subscribed for, after deducting the annual expense
 32 of keeping and maintaining the said bridge, properly repaired, and

33 furnished with all necessary attendance and implements, of com-
34 pensating the officers, agents and servants of the said company, and
35 other incidental annual expenses in carrying on the business of the
36 said company; then, and in that case, the said company shall de-
37 mand and receive such other rates of toll, as may be afterwards
38 established by law, and no other.